

Message Text

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA, PINT

SUBJECT: CONSERVATIVE HIROSHI MIYAZAWA ELECTED HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE GOVERNOR

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: ON DECEMBER 16, CONSERVATIVE HIROSHI MIYAZAWA WON HIROSHIMA GUBERNATORIAL RACE, AND CONSERVATIVES RETAINED MAYORSHIPS IN TWO OTHER LOCAL LEVEL ELECTIONS. INABILITY OF OPPOSITION PARTIES TO AGREE ON OWN CANDIDATE UNDERSCORES DIFFICULTIES THEY FACE IN PREPARING FOR UPPER HOUSE ELECTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON DECEMBER 16, LDP-BACKED INDEPENDENT HIROSHI MIYAZAWA, 52, WAS ELECTED GOVERNOR OF HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE. WITH MORE THAN HALF OF VOTE COUNTED, MIYAZAWA HAD 3 TO 1 LEAD OVER JCP CANDIDATE NORIAKI YAMADA. NEW GOVERNOR IS FORMER VICE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND YOUNGER BROTHER OF KIICHI MIYAZAWA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBER AND FORMER MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

2. ELECTION, HELD TO REPLACE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNOR NAGANO, WHO RESIGNED TO PREPARE FOR 1974 UPPER HOUSE RACE, WAS LACKLUSTER AFFAIR WHICH DREW VOTER TURNOUT OF ONLY 43.7 PER CENT, LOWEST ON RECORD IN HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE. JSP FAILED IN PRE-ELECTION
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EFFORTS TO COME UP WITH EITHER OWN CANDIDATE OR ONE JOINTLY

BACKED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES. WITH ONLY COMPETITION COMING FROM JCP, VOTERS APPARENTLY TOOK CUE FROM POLITICAL OBSERVERS, WHO CONSIDERED MIYAZAWA SHOO-IN, AND STAYED HOME.

3. IN OTHER LOAL ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 16, TWO CONSERVATIVES RAN CLOSE RACE FOR MAYOR OF TSUCHIUBA IN CHIBA. FORMER VICE MAYOR TOSHIO NOGUCHI WAS ELECTED, WITH JCP CANDIDATE FINISHING DISTANT THIRD. IN ANOTHER CONTEST BETWEEN CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATES, SHIGEO NAKAMOTO WON MAYORSHIP OF ARITA IN WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE.

4. COMMENT: HIROSHIMA ELECTION RESULT HAS LITTLE DIRECT SIGNIFICANCE FOR NATIONAL LEVEL POLITICS, AND LDP CAN HARDLY TOUT IT AS IMPORTANT WIN, GIVEN ABSENCE OF ANY REAL COMPETITION. HOWEVER, OPPOSITION PARTIES INABILITY TO REACH ACCORD ON HIROSHIMA GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE, LIKE CONTINUING JUS-JCP DISPUTE OVER SUPPORT FOR CANDIDACY OF GOVERNOR NIINAGAWA IN NEXT APRIL'S KYOTO ELECTION, UNDERSCORES DIFFICULTIES THEY FACE IN PRODUCING AGREEMENT ON MUCH DISCUSSED JOINT CANDIDATES IN 1974 HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION.
SHOESMITH

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